

King and Queen Contest

Now is the time to nominate someone from your club for King or Queen. Each club can nominate one male and one female from among their primary or shared project members. Candidates should possess leadership skills and be well-rounded role models for other 4-Hers. Candidates must also meet the following criteria:

- 14 –18 years old as of Jan 1 2008;
- Active in 4-H for a minimum of 2 years;
- Nominee must be available during fair week for 4-H promotion, must help with cloversprout judging, petting farm, and exhibit building;
- Nominee must be available for Romeo Peach festival and Richmond Good Old Days Parades;
- Nominee must be available for pictures & media before & after fair opening ceremonies on Tuesday;
- Nominee must be willing and able to represent 4-H and their club in the community throughout the year including county wide events;
- Nominee must be available for an interview on the date and time set.

Process:

- 1) Your club nominates you.
- 2) Your General/Organization Leader enters you into the contest by completing a fair entry form by the fair entry deadline.
- 3) Candidates complete an application available on Macomb County 4-H Web Site or by contacting the Macomb County MSUE office. The application this year closely resembles State Awards forms. Applications are due to the Macomb County MSUE office by July 1st at 5 pm.
- 4) Candidates are interviewed by a panel of judges prior to the fair. Candidates will share their 4-H experience with their 4-H record book and/or scrapbook, which could include awards, photos, resume, ribbons etc.
- 5) All registered 4-H members and cloversprouts can vote for candidates during scheduled times as determined by Superintendent. The Court is announced Tuesday at Opening Ceremonies of the Armada Fair.
- 6) You gain leadership experience helping out at the fair, Petting Farm, Exhibit Building, and Livestock Sale, handing out ribbons, parades and more!

More Information:

For more information, please contact this year's Superintendents Jenna Lotan or Christine Bingham or the 4-H office.

4-H Construction Project

Do you want to learn from a Master Carpenter and Professional Painter? Are you a 4-H member interested in gaining some hands-on experience in construction? Are you at least 12 years old? Do you want to help build a new feed cone barn for the 4-H Petting Farm?

If you answered yes to these questions then you may be interested in registering for the new 4-H Construction Project. This project will take place on Saturday March 22 and March 29 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The first 15 kids who register will be selected. So don't delay! Register now by calling Mike Cobbett at 810.395.7333.

Leader and Mentor of the Year Announced



Pictured from l. to r. are Commissioner Paul Gielegheem, Paul Allmacher, Kathy Jamieson, Cheryl Donovan, and Commissioner Keith Rengert.

The 2006-07 Macomb County 4-H Mentor and Leader of the year were announced at the 4-H County Awards Banquet on January 23, 2008. Earning Mentor of the Year was Paul Allmacher. Leader of the Year was Cheryl Donovan (4-H Petting Farm). Other nominees for Leader of the Year were Kerry DuBaere (Trail Blazers) and Alayne Waterstraat (Clever Clovers). Commissioners Paul Gielegheem and Keith Rengert were on hand to present the awards. See page 3 for more County Awards results.

Club & Committee News

Volunteer of the Month

Josie Scaglione, an Activity Leader with Trail Blazers 4-H Club, is the February 2008 Volunteer of the Month. She was nominated by the club's General Leader, Tracy DuBaere. Tracy wrote of Josie:

"Josie is one of my parents who always volunteers. She helps organize great community services and has also graciously taken on a few of my jobs this year. Josie brings her 4-H children to nearly every community service project and volunteers right along side of them. She put effort and time into our club directory this year and our shirt ordering. She has volunteered to help with our pin ceremony and shooting sports competition. Volunteers like Josie are hard to come by. I'm blessed to have her a part of our club. She understands my vision for the club."

Our March 2008 Volunteer of the Month is Debbie Kirksey of Trail Blazers 4-H Club. Says Tracy DuBaere, General Leader of Trail Blazers:

"Debbie volunteers whenever she can in our club activities. She has stepped up and become a screened volunteer and heard my call for help with my leader duties. She has volunteered to do some of my duties and lifted a burden off of me. She is already very active with her children in non-4-H activities but still squeezes in more volunteer work with 4-H. She takes charge and runs things well. It's hard finding volunteers and I appreciate everything she does for me and our club. She is putting on a pin ceremony and has become the go to person for Community Services. I'm extremely lucky to have her."

Thank you, ladies, for everything you do for your club and community!

Do you know the next volunteer of the month? Show a 4-H volunteer you appreciate them by nominating them! Complete the 4-H Volunteer of the Month Nomination Form and send it to MSU Extension—Macomb County, Attn: 4-H, 21885 Dunham Road, Suite 12, Clinton Township, MI 48036. Call (586) 469-6431 or e-mail Macomb.4h@macombcountymi.gov to request a form.

2008 4-H Exchange Opportunities

Foreign exchange opportunities exist through 4-H for youth who wish to travel abroad and learn about other cultures. Choose from Belize, Poland, Japan, Australia, or Finland. The participant age range varies by program, but is typically between 12 and 19 years. Participants traveling to Belize will spend over one week with host families and help out at a 4-H center there. The trip includes several days of sightseeing in the country and out on the Belize Cays. This will be a chance to experience the true culture of a developing country. Participants traveling to Poland will stay with host families from June 20-July 18. Delegates will visit local sites and learn about the culture and people of Poland. Two days will be spent in Warsaw. Exchange opportunities for Japan are also available.

There are Ambassador 4-H trips for 15-19 year olds. Participants will travel to Australia (June 16 to July 17) or Finland (June 14 to July 15). IFYE Representative Programs are for individuals 19-25 years old and last three to six months. Rather than attending school in another country, participants in these programs live and work as part of a family, moving to a new family every three to five weeks. For more information about these exchange opportunities, go online to <http://web1.msue.msu.edu/cyf/youth/interex.html> or contact Anne Crotser at 586-469-6431.

Host Families Needed

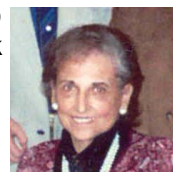
Each year, Michigan 4-H families volunteer to host more than 55 Japanese students from the Japanese Labo program. This year, 57 Labo students and adults will be in Michigan from July 26th to August 22nd.

Host families must have a youth of the same gender and approximate age, be willing to open their homes and hearts and help the Labo youth understand the American family culture. The purpose of the exchange is for them to hear English spoken in the context of the American culture and to practice using their speaking skills. They also want to learn about American family life and make friends in America. There is no cost to the host family other than transportation to pick up and return their new family member.

Host families are also needed for exchange students from Belize and Finland from late June to mid-July. Students from Belize will

Rita Faulk

Macomb County 4-H recently said good-bye to two longtime supporters, Rita Faulk and Bill Hahn. Faulk was the general leader of Washington Raiders 4-H Club and was active on the Macomb County 4-H Horse Program Committee. She passed away on February 1, 2008. Her extensive knowledge of horses, expertise, dedication and determination will long be remembered.



Rita Faulk

Bill Hahn

Hahn died January 31, 2008. A member of the Armada Agricultural Society Fair Board of Directors since 1980, he served as the Board President for 12 years. Hahn supported 4-H through his role on the Board.

Club & Committee News (continued)

County Awards Banquet

Thanks to all of you who participated in the 2007 County Awards and Mentor Recognition Banquet on January 23, 2008. Congratulations to all the leaders and youth who were recognized at the banquet. A big THANK YOU goes out to all the volunteers that helped make the 2007 banquet a success. Below is a list of participants. An asterisk (*) indicates a trophy winner.

Mentor Recognition:

4-H Youth Mentor Program

Mentor: Paul Allmacher	Mentee: Gene
Mentor: Nick Amatangelo	Mentee: Robert
Mentor: Lakeisha Blackwell	Mentee: Gabby
Mentor: Dave Boer	Mentee: Paul
Mentor: John Bonstas	Mentee: Sean
Mentor: Emily Calabrese	Mentee: Katelynn
Mentor: Maegan Calabrese	Mentee: Angela
Mentor: Meghan Cassidy	Mentee: Natalina
Mentor: James Davert	Mentee: El'Jawon
Mentor: Joanne Duick	Mentee: Anna
Mentor: Carl Etue	Mentee: Jordan
Mentor: Danielle Faria	Mentee: Catherine
Mentor: Sri Kanajan	Mentee: Tommy
Mentor: Jaime Leafdale	Mentee: Christina
Mentor: Rebecca Mertz	Mentee: Anna
Mentor: Valarii Nunn	Mentee: Norman
Mentor: Marla Pomante	Mentee: Emily
Mentor: Kelly Pruitt	Mentee: Gabrielle
Mentor: Kyle Sawicki	Mentee: Angelo
Mentor: Byron Simmons	Mentee: Zach & Mitch

4-H Leadership Club Peer Mentoring Program

Lincoln and Center Line High Schools Mentors:

Neelam Bhatt, Lizeth Carpio-Estrada, Ryah Chambliss, Lindsey Higdon, T'Asha Holmes, David Ksar, Toiya Lawrence, Fatima Monsour, Stephanie Pakulak, Rae Richards, Kelly Roberts, Brittney Russell, Daliya Sadiq, Ian Stoll, Brandon Thomas, Yolanda Tolbert, Demetrius Wash, Courtney Watson, Amanda Woods

4-H Clintondale M & M

Peer Mentor Program Mentors:

Tomjon Gjoni, Brittany O'Neal, Alonzo McCoy, Kiyana Everett, James Judkins, Sherer Sheikh, Chuckie Lewis, Justin Lane, Abree McAfee, Sharmain James

Ambassadors-Active Club Members

Christine Bingham (Ray's Riding Rascals)
Brianna Wilkinson (K-9 & Kompany)

Ambassadors

Christopher Cooper (Mini, Mighty & All)
Daniel Cooper (Mini, Mighty & All)
Kaitlyn Clough (Poochez-N-Pals)
Rachel Clough (Poochez-N-Pals)
Audrey Davis (Mini, Mighty & All)
Colleen Davis (Mini, Mighty & All)
Danny Sexton (Northern Macomb)
John Sexton (Northern Macomb)

Apply for 4-H State Awards!

For more information, call Anne Crotser at 586-469-6431 or go online to <http://web1.msue.msu.edu/cyf/youth/staward.html>

Project Awards – Junior Division

Arts & Crafts:

*Audrey Davis (Mini, Mighty & All)
Rosemary Propst (School Section)

Community Service:

Colleen Davis (Mini, Mighty & All)
*Troy Wilkinson (K-9 & Kompany)

Dogs:

*Carlynn Maas (K-9 & Kompany)

Food Preparation:

*Haley Waterstraat (Clever Clovers)

Horses-Draft:

Justin Decker (Just For Fun)

Horses-Mini:

Audrey Davis (Mini, Mighty & All)

*Colleen Davis (Mini, Mighty & All)

Photography:

*Hannah Kwiecinski (K-9 & Kompany)

Rabbit:

*Elizabeth Brockert (Northern Macomb)

Sewing:

Alissa Gianferrara (School Section)

Shooting Sports:

Audrey Davis (Mini, Mighty, & All)

*Jordan DuBaere (Trail Blazers)

*Heather Kitchen (Northern Macomb)

Swine:

*Elizabeth Brockert (Northern Macomb)

Volunteerism:

*Colleen Davis (Mini, Mighty & All)

Project Awards – Senior Division

Arts and Crafts:

*Brianna Wilkinson (K-9 & Kompany)

Beef Project:

*Greg Hulett (Kids-N-Kritters)

Birds and Poultry:

*Shelby Motoligin (Northern Macomb)

Dairy Goats:

*Kara Lotan (Northern Macomb)

Food & Nutrition:

*Lauren Busemann (Kids-N-Kritters)

Horse Judging:

Ania Kroll (Ray's Riding Rascals)

Horses-Light:

Ashley Cerku (Midnight Riders)

*Diana Kroll (Ray's Riding Rascals)

Horses-Mini:

*Ashley Cerku (Midnight Riders)

Photography:

*Patrick Houin (Ray's Riding Rascals)

Pocket Pets:

*Brianna Bloxsom (K-9 & Kompany)

Rabbit:

Danny Sexton (Northern Macomb)

Swine:

*Kara Lotan (Northern Macomb)

Wood Science:

*Crystal Knust (Northern Macomb)

Woodworking:

Patrick Houin (Ray's Riding Rascals)

Special Awards

Achievement:

*Jessica Fowke (K-9 & Company)

Leadership:

*Christine Bingham (Ray's Riding Rascals);

Briana Bloxsom (K-9 & Kompany)

Key Club:

Christine Bingham (Ray's Riding Rascals);

Chris Cooper (Mini, Mighty & All);

*Kara Lotan (Northern Macomb)

*Jessica Makowski (Northern Macomb)

*Cole Waterstraat (Clever Clovers)

Most Deserving 4-H'er:

*Daniel Cooper (Mini, Mighty & All);

Dana Delboy (Blue Ribbon Bandits);

*Jennifer Haneghan (Ray's Riding Rascals)

4-H Sportsmanship:

*Ashley Cerku (Midnight Riders)

*Renee Kolleth (K-9 & Kompany)

Club Community Service:

*Trail Blazers (Kerry & Tracy DuBaere)

Friend of 4-H Award (All were awarded for their contributions to 4-H):

Blue Water Llamas & Alpacas (Petting Farm); Lisa's All Breed Pet

Grooming (K-9 & Kompany); Schramm's Country Kennel (K-9 Shadows);

Wolcott Farm (Clever Clovers)

4-H Leader of the Year:

*Cheryl Donovan (Petting Farm);

Kerry DuBaere (Trailblazers);

Alayne Waterstraat (Clever Clovers)

4-H Mentor of the Year:

*Paul Allmacher

Upcoming Events

Jump into Food, Fitness & Family Fun!

Kettunen Center, Tustin, MI
March 15-16, 2008

Jump into a Family Science weekend which has you striving to reach the top of the healthy food and fitness pyramid. The workshop will get your family moving to motion and giving high fives for health! Kids and their families will power up with nutrition activities to learn more about healthy decisions and choices! This workshop is very hands-on and encourages family togetherness. Designed and open to families with children aged 5-12. The cost is \$53 per person. Register at your local MSU Extension office by March 7th.

2008 4-H Dairy Conference

Kellogg Biological Station
April 11-13, 2008

If you'd like to know more about the dairy industry, sign up to attend this conference. You'll learn about dairy management topics including dairy cattle nutrition, health, reproduction and cattle evaluation. Practice for state dairy management contests such as the skillathon and quiz bowls which will focus on dairy cattle nutrition. You'll also tour area farms. Open to youth 13 to 19 years old as of January 1, 2008. The cost and registration deadline will be announced.

4-H Companion Animal Workshop

Kettunen Center, Tustin, MI
April 19-20, 2008

Share, learn, and explore the 4-H companion animal project at this workshop. Participants will share information about activities, club and group development and learn canine behavior and training along with skill development for performance events such as agility, obedience, showmanship, rally and freestyle. Additional topics of interest will include cat and pet bird sessions and others. Open to adults and youth ages 12 and up. The cost and registration deadline will be announced.

4-H Exploration Days

MSU, East Lansing
June 18-20, 2008

Come to Michigan State University for 4-H Exploration Days! 4-H Exploration Days is an annual MSU pre-college program that attracts participants from all 83 Michigan counties.

Exploration Days, open to youths ages 11 and up, is like no other teen conference. Choose from more than 180 action-packed learning sessions. Develop your leadership skills and enhance your individual growth. Learn new ideas, skills and techniques you can use at home or in your 4-H group and community.

The full-time participant fee is \$165. This includes all meals, shared lodging, sessions and an event t-shirt. The commuter fee is \$85. Commuters do not receive meals or lodging. You do not have to be a 4-H member to attend. Non-4-Hers will be responsible for an extra \$10 participation fee. Registration begins in March and will be accepted through May 2. Session information and registration forms are available on the web at <http://web1.msue.msu.edu/cyf/youth/expodays.html>. For more information, call (586) 469-6431.

Vetavisit

MSU, East Lansing, MI
March 29, 2008

Vetavisit 2008, the MSU College of Veterinary Medicine's annual open house, will be held on Saturday, March 29, 2008 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Allow several hours to tour. Allow even more time if you plan on attending an educational seminar for students interested in a career in veterinary medicine. The exhibits and displays are age-appropriate for all ages. Admission is free. This is a self-guided tour, so there is no need to register. You can get an idea of what is offered at Vetavisit by going online to <http://www.vetavisit.com/>. Detailed information, including maps and directions, and parking information are available on the web site.

4-H Shooting Sports Instructor Training

Kettunen Center, Tustin, MI
April 25-27, 2008

This workshop offers a variety of training sessions including riflery, shotgun, archery, hunting and wildlife. Completing the course does NOT guarantee that participants will be certified; they must demonstrate proficiency on written and range assessments at the workshop, then complete paperwork (including approval by county staff) before they obtain certification. Join us and see all that the 4-H shooting sports program has to offer!

Shooting sports instructors seeking re-certification in a discipline should fill out a re-certification application. You do NOT need to re-take the training unless you've been inactive for more than three years. Open to new and veteran adult volunteers and youth aged 16 and up. Look for details in upcoming e-mail announcements or call Tina at 586-469-6431.

2nd Annual Show Pig Auction

Southeast Michigan Show Pigs presents the 2nd Annual Show Pig Auction on Saturday, April 5, 2008. The auction will be held at 1138 E. Five Mile, Whitmore Lake, MI 48189. Over 100 Dec., Jan. and Feb. pigs will be auctioned. Viewing will take place at 10 a.m. The auction begins at noon.

S.E. Michigan Show Pigs was started with the 4-H/FFA participant in mind. Last year, 21 out of 38 pigs sold at auction placed fourth or higher, including nine first-place wins. This year's litters are expected to include 16 individual litters, eight sires, all show pig genetics, Hamp purebred, Duroc purebred, Spot purebred, Duroc/Spot cross, Bluebutts, and Hamp/Duroc cross. Please call Bob Head 248-231-4838, Josh Merna 810-623-2725, or Mark Merna 313-910-0534 for details.

Family Fun Volunteer Contest

Are you a family that volunteers together or do you know of such a family in your organization? FamilyFun magazine wants to hear about how families are volunteering together and why! The Walt Disney Company will donate \$5000 to the 501c3 charity or public school of choice for the five Grand Prize winners in the contest. There will also be 25 First Prize families who will receive a donation of \$1,000 for their charity of choice.

The contest deadline is March 31, 2008. Visit www.FamilyFun.go.com to enroll.

Youth/Dog Team Award



An annual Youth/Dog Team award of \$100 for a young person up to the age of 16 training/working with a purebred Siberian Husky with verifiable participation in some form of dog sports or canine activity. (eg. sledding, racing, conformation, agility, 4-H, obedience, therapy, weight pull, rally, tracking, service dog training, lure coarsing, etc.) Application deadline is May 30, 2008. You can find more information at <http://tajasiberians.com/id25.html>.

Upcoming Events (continued)

Pigeon Workshop

May 18, 2008

Springfield Oaks County Park, Davisburg, MI
Oakland County MSU Extension is proud to announce a 4-H workshop for 4-H members and leaders interested in learning more about exotic and domestic pigeons. If you have an interest in birds or if you'd just like to learn more about these amazing birds, this is the workshop for you. It will be held at Springfield Oaks County Park, Davisburg, MI on May 18, 2008 9 am to 4 pm. A free lunch will be provided to attendees.

Topics to be discussed include differences between pigeons and other domesticated birds, the main types of pigeons, housing pigeons, how to acquire breeding stock, showmanship with pigeons, how to care for your pigeons, and how to find help with your pigeons.

Contact Onorio Catenacci, 4-H Pigeon Resource Leader, Oakland County for more information or to R.S.V.P. by April 1, 2008 via e-mail at Catenacci@leee.Org or by phone, (248) 841-8542. Attendance will be limited to first 25 4-H members and volunteers to respond.

Michigan 4-H Livestock Camp

Livestock Camp will be held in Coldwater from June 22-25, 2008. Youth 10 and older can attend this three-day, hands-on livestock camp. Register early as sessions fill fast. Contact (586) 469-6431 for more information or to request a registration packet.

Water Conservation Volunteers Needed

MSU Extension (MSUE) is seeking volunteers to help present the Water Conservation Program to first, second and third grade students in schools throughout Macomb County. Volunteer help is needed to meet growing requests for the program. Over 300 classes request the Water Conservation Program in Macomb County annually. The Water Conservation Program uses hands-on activities to teach younger elementary students about where water comes from, how water is used, and how to conserve water. Volunteers work individually or may "team teach" with another volunteer and can choose the dates that they are available to help. All program supplies and materials are provided. Call 586-469-6430 for more information.

Event Scholarships Available

Adult chaperones and youth are reminded that the Macomb County 4-H Council has Scholarship money available for participants in state and national 4-H programs.

Guidelines and an application form are available at http://macombcountymi.gov/msuextension/4h_Forms.htm or by calling (586) 469-6431.

Newsletter/E-mail Deadlines

The deadline for the May-June 2008 issue of 4-H Family Notes Newsletter is April 14, 2008. Items received after that date will be included whenever possible.

E-mail Announcements will be going out March 10, March 24, April 13, April 21, and May 5. Items received before noon on those days will be included.

Mail articles, pictures and announcements to MSU Extension, Attn: 4-H, 21885 Dunham Rd., Suite 12, Clinton Twp., MI 48036, fax to 586-469-6948, or e-mail to Macomb.4h@macombcountymi.gov.

Notes from the 4-H Office

Does Your Fundraiser Raffle Need A License?

Michigan Law allows nonprofit organizations to conduct limited small raffles without obtaining a license. The raffle must be conducted at a single gathering, no tickets may be sold before or after the gathering, and the total value of the prizes being awarded must not exceed \$100. Otherwise you need a license. If you have any questions contact the 4-H Office during the planning stages of your raffle before you submit a fundraiser request to be sure you are meeting these requirements.

Armada Agricultural Society Offers Scholarships

The Armada Agricultural Society is offering two annual one-time college scholarships, one for males and one for females, to graduating high school seniors. Financial need or grades will not be a deciding factor for this scholarship. Participation in the Armada Fair as an exhibitor, volunteer, or employee, rather than financial need or grades will be the basis for eligibility. 4-Hers who have exhibited or volunteered at the Fair are eligible to apply. Scholarship finalists may be asked to attend an interview. Applicants must be planning to attend an institution of higher learning (trade school, college or university).

The applicant cannot have a criminal record and must be a positive role model for other youth. Direct questions and application requests to the Armada Fair office at 586-784-5488. Applications must be postmarked or delivered to the Armada Fair Office by April 15th.

PEP Needs Volunteers

The 4-H Proud Equestrian Program (PEP) is looking for volunteers to serve as side walkers and leaders. PEP is held in Marine City. The 10-week spring session runs on Wednesday evenings from Apr. 2-June 4. Call Rachel Calcaterra at (586) 783-8163 for details.

Benefit 4-H: Order Supplies Online

You can benefit Michigan 4-H Youth Development by purchasing items online through the 4-H Mall from National 4-H Supply Service. The 4-H Fair Share Program donates 10 percent of all merchandise ordered on the web back to Michigan 4-H. To ensure that your order is counted toward the Fair Share total, orders must be placed online at www.4-hmall.org. Orders placed by phone or mail do **not** count toward Michigan's 4-H Fair Share total.

Children's Art Exchange

The Michigan 4-H China Project is a global education program that uses the arts for both in-school and after school learning experience. The project provides Michigan youth a chance to learn about the many similarities between their lives and the lives of Chinese children halfway around the world.

The Chinese Art Kit will be available to be signed out in March and April.

For more information or to reserve the art kit call Karen @ (586) 469-5931.

Armada Fair - Aug. 12-17, 2008
<http://www.armadafair.org>

4-H Great Lakes & Natural

Resources Camp

July 27-August 2, 2008
Presque Isle, MI

Fees: \$250 (4-H)
\$260 (non-4-H)

This camp is a tremendous pre-college opportunity for teens ages 13-15. Enjoy fishing, boating, swimming, hiking, making friends. Learn about Great Lakes ecology, natural resources & more!
<http://web1.msue.msu.edu/cyf/youth/glnrc.html>

Notes from the 4-H Office (continued)

Youth-Adult Housing Policy for 4-H Overnight Events

The mandatory Youth-Adult Housing Policy for 4-H Overnight Events applies to any Michigan 4-H-sponsored state-, regional-, multi-county-, county- or club-level overnight event where adults are housed with youth, such as workshops, events, fairs, exchanges, overnight trips, lock-ins and camps. For purposes of this policy, a "Michigan 4-H-sponsored event" is defined as any event that has an affiliation with 4-H through the use of the name or emblem, and that involves a representative of 4-H (either a 4-H staff member or a 4-H volunteer who has been through the Michigan State University Extension Child Well-Being Volunteer Selection Process). The core of the policy relates to housing young people with unrelated adults and reads as follows:

Youth can be housed with unrelated adult chaperones aged 21 and over (age as of date of event) at overnight 4-H events as long as the youth-adult ratio is at least two youth to one adult and the adults have been through the Michigan State University Extension Volunteer Selection Process. Chaperones at 4-H overnight events are responsible for serving as role models for youth and for guiding youth behavior. Only adult chaperones and youth of the same gender can be housed together. An unrelated youth and adult must never share a bed. At overnight events, it is recommended that adults be housed with youth whenever possible – in accordance with the policy. When this is not possible, adults must be housed within hearing distance of any lodging rooms housing youth. In all events, 4-H staff and adult volunteers having responsibility for a given activity always retain the authority to exercise their best judgment to ensure the safety of the young people involved.

This policy also addresses other aspects of overnight housing situations:

Housing Youth With Related Adults: Youth can be housed one-to-one with related adults (19 and over) who are their parents, legal guardians or other family members (such as step-parents, domestic partners, grandparents, aunts, uncles and adult siblings). Keep in mind that "family members" may be defined in different ways across cultural groups. (Any questions related to defining "family members" should be directed to Betsy Knox or Janet Olsen; see contact information below.) A youth who is housed with a related adult of the opposite gender must not be housed in an area with shared bathrooms. Note that this portion of the policy refers to related one-on-one youth-adult situations. Adults can be housed with more than one related youth.

Special Needs Situations: Exceptions can be made for one-to-one lodging with unrelated adults due to a young person's special needs or family situation (such as a home health aid or caregiver needing to room with a youth) so long as written parent or guardian authorization is submitted to the 4-H staff member seven days before the event and the family agrees to cover the associated costs for the unrelated adult. In a special needs situation, a youth who is housed with an unrelated adult of the opposite gender must not be housed in an area with shared bathrooms.

Housing for Adults Who Have Not Completed the Volunteer Selection Process: Any adult who participates in 4-H overnight events who has not gone through the MSU Extension Volunteer Selection Process must not be housed in the same area or share bathrooms with youth.

Housing Unrelated Older-Younger Youth: MSU 4-H must make every attempt to house unrelated youth of similar age together whenever possible. Any youth aged 18, 19 or 20 at the time of the event who attends an event as a participant must not be housed with or share bathrooms with younger, unrelated youth unless he or she has completed a background check including one reference check and a criminal history check. (Keep in mind that sex offenders who committed sex-related crimes as juveniles will only appear in public records [such as the Michigan Public Sex Offender Registry] after their 18th birthday if they were convicted of Criminal Sexual Conduct 1st Degree or Criminal Sexual Conduct 2nd Degree.) When registering youth aged 18, 19 or 20 for state-level overnight events, county staff will be asked to indicate that these background checks have been carried out. Background checks for youth in this age bracket should be completed no more than once a year, unless circumstances warrant more frequent checks.

Youth-Adult Ratios: Michigan 4-H Youth Development recommends the following adult-to-youth ratios when planning and implementing programs. When involving youth between the ages of 5 and 12 (of the same gender), follow a ratio of one adult to six youth. Supervision of young people aged 13 and up (of the same gender) requires a ratio of one adult to ten youth. Keep in mind that some programs (such as the 4-H Outdoor Adventure Challenge program) use a higher ratio of adults to youth. Also note that the ratio for overnight (residential) camp programs may differ. 4-H staff and volunteers should always consider the needs of the group (such as age and maturity levels) and use their best judgment to keep the young people safe and not put adult chaperones in unreasonable situations.

Source: <http://web1.msue.msu.edu/msue/cyf/youth/downloads/housingpolicy/policy.html>

Before any youth attends an overnight 4-H event, each youth's parent or legal guardian must sign and return a "4-H Overnight Housing Parent/Guardian Permission Form," which is available from the county MSU Extension office.

Macomb County 4-H Staff

Marilyn Rudzinski, County Extension Director
Kathy Jamieson, 4-H Youth Agent
Tina Fleming, 4-H Youth Educator
Anne Crotser, 4-H Youth Educator
Karen Hakim, 4-H Youth Educator
Roberta Busquaert, 4-H Secretary
Jan Gwozdz, 4-H Mentor Coordinator
Rachel Calcaterra, 4-H Youth Educator

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